S/N 09/437,567   PATENT

<u>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

Applicant:	SEARE ET AL.	Examiner:	Poinvil
Serial No.:	09/437,567	Group Art Unit:	2755
Filed:	11/10/99	Docket No.:	12344.2USC1
Title:	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR GENERATING STATISTICALLY-BASED MEDICAL PROVIDER UTILIZATION PROFILES		

<u>**THIRD AMENDMENT RESPONSE**</u>
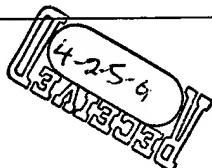
Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

As a follow-up to the interview that was conducted Tuesday, April 3, 2001 with

Examiner Fratzy Poinvil at the U.S. Patent Office, Applicant respectfully submits the

following remarks in an effort to clarify clear window time periods.

<u>**Remarks**</u>

A clear window is a period of time before and after an episode of care during which a

patient cannot receive medical services associated with the episode of care. When a patient does

not receive medical services during the clear window time period associated with the first and

last service records within an episode of care, the clear window defines the onset and resolution

points of the episode of care. See page 30, lines 32-33, Revised Specification. (The Original

Specification also included language supporting clear window processing "[c]lear window

processing defines the onset and resolution points of a diagnosis to establish an episode of care."

Original Specification page 66, lines 25-25). In addition, a clear window is a "dynamic" time

period. Each episode of care has its own unique clear window time period.

In order to assist in understanding the operation of the invention the specification

describes, Applicant initially points out that the present invention includes a plurality of tables

within a relational database that are linked and stored in system data storage. Two tables within